IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) An oligonucleotide for detection or amplification of VT1 RNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to VT1 RNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 5.

2. (Withdrawn) An oligonucleotide for detection or amplification of VT2 RNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to VT2 RNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 6 to 14.

3. (Currently Amended) A process of detecting VT1 RNA comprising:

synthesizing cDNA employing as a template a specific sequence of VT1 RNA present in a sample ~~as a template~~ and contacting said template with an RNA dependent DNA polymerase,

digesting the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid with ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA,

synthesizing a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising said specific sequence or a sequence complementary to said specific sequence ~~employing~~ by contacting a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase ~~and~~ with said single-stranded DNA as a template,

producing an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase from said double-stranded DNA, and

synthesizing cDNA by employing said RNA transcription product as a template for cDNA synthesis and contacting said template with an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase,

wherein ~~the amplification~~ said process employs a first oligonucleotide consisting ~~that comprises at least 10 contiguous bases~~ of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 and a second

oligonucleotide consisting ~~comprising at least 10 contiguous bases~~ of SEQ ID NOS: 15, 16, 17, or 18,

wherein either said first or second oligonucleotide ~~includes~~ ~~said~~ further consists of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

4. (Withdrawn) A process of detecting VT2 RNA, wherein a specific sequence of VT2 RNA present in a sample is used as a template for synthesis of a CDNA employing an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid is digested by ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA, said single-stranded DNA is then used as a template for production of a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising said specific sequence or a sequence complementary to said specific sequence employing a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase, said double-stranded DNA produces an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase, and said RNA transcription product is then used as a template for cDNA synthesis employing said RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the amplification process being characterized by employing a first oligonucleotide capable of specifically binding to VT2 RNA and comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 6 to 14 and ~~a~~ to a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 19 to 23, where either said first or second oligonucleotide includes the RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3, wherein said ~~amplification~~ process is carried out in the presence of an oligonucleotide probe capable of specifically binding to the RNA transcription product resulting from ~~said~~ amplification and which probe is labeled with an intercalator fluorescent pigment, and

wherein changes in the fluorescent properties of the reaction solution are measured,

with the proviso that the labeled oligonucleotide has a sequence different from those of the first oligonucleotide and the second oligonucleotide ~~in the sequence~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 5, wherein said oligonucleotide probe is designed so as to complementarily bind to at least a portion of the sequence of said RNA transcription product, and

wherein the fluorescent property of a complex formed by the RNA transcription product and the probe changes relative to that ~~of a situation~~ where a complex formation ~~are~~ is absent.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 5, wherein said oligonucleotide probe for detecting said VT1 ~~m~~RNA ~~comprises at least 10 contiguous bases~~ consists of SEQ. ID. No. 24 or its complementary sequence.

8. (Withdrawn) The detection process according to claim 5 for detecting said VT2 RNA, characterized in that said oligonucleotide probe ~~comprises at least 10 contiguous bases~~ consists of SEQ. ID. No. 25 or its complementary sequence.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 3, wherein said first oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~which~~ and may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 3, wherein said second oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO: 15 or SEQ ID NO: 38.

11. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 3, wherein said first oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 4 or 5, ~~which~~ and may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

12. (Withdrawn) The process of Claim 3, wherein said second oligonucleotide consists of SEQ ID NOS: 16, 17, or 18 ~~which~~ and may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

13. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising oligonucleotides consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 15, wherein either of said oligonucleotides may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising any one of the oligonucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 and any one of the oligonucleotides of SEQ ID NOS: 15, 16, 17, or 18, wherein either of said oligonucleotides may optionally further consist of an RNA polymerase promoter sequence.